

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 05174 211754Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 TRSE-00 /099 W
-----073505 220156Z /64

R 211742Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6968
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05174

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, SHUM, EG, UG, GW
SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN UGANDA: VISIT OF
BARON VON BLOMBERG

REFS: (A) CAIRO 8818; (B) BONN 4707; (C) CAIRO 8317

1. FRG AMBASSADOR FROEWIS IN KAMPALA HAS SENT THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE IN ANSWER TO VON BLOMBERG'S REQUEST
FOR INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
IN UGANDA IN PREPARATION FOR HIS MEETING WITH AMIN.
THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE TEXT
OF FROEWIS' MESSAGE WERE PASSED TO VON BLOMBERG FOR HIS
USE AS LONG AS HE MAKES NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO
THE GERMAN EMBASSY AS THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP, EMBODIED IN THE UGANDAN
CONSTITUTION, HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO FOUR GROUPS:
CHURCH OF UGANDA, CATHOLIC CHURCH, ORTHODOX CHURCH,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 05174 211754Z

AND ISLAM.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THE
MISSIONARY CAMPAIGN OF THE MUSLIM MINORITY (10 PERCENT
OF THE POPULATION), THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ARE NOT
IMPEDED IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS SERVICES.
THEIR INFLUENCE UPON THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS DIMINISHING, HOWEVER. AS A
RULE, THEIR CLERGYMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ATTEND CHURCH
CONFERENCES ABROAD.

2. IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF BARON VON BLOMBERG WELCOMED
AMIN'S NEW POLICY OF PEACE, LOVE AND RECONCILIATION.
HE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT UGANDA NOW IS PEACEFUL AND
QUIET AND THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS VISIBLY
IMPROVED.

HE COULD THEN POINT OUT THAT IT WOULD HELP UGANDA'S
IMAGE IN THE US IF AMIN MET THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS GROUPS BANNED IN OCTOBER 1977
AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM THE SCOPE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS,
EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DEVOTED TO THE
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF UGANDA. A RECONSIDERATION
OF THE BAN MIGHT FOLLOW FROM THIS MEETING.

FINALLY BARON VON BLOMBERG COULD PLEAD WITH AMIN TO
ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE CHURCH
OF UGANDA BY REVIEWING THE RESTRICTIONS THAT THE
AUTHORITIES HAVE DE FACTO PLACED UPON THEM.

THE BAPTIST MISSION IN UGANDA AND THE CHURCH OF UGANDA
ARE CONSIDERING AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE BAPTISTS
WOULD CONTINUE THEIR WORK UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 05174 211754Z

CHURCH OF UGANDA. FROEWIS.

END TEXT.

2. SHOULD VON BLOMBERG MAKE CONTACT WITH ACTION
ADDRESSEES BEFORE COMING TO BONN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
IT IF THE ABOVE WERE CONVEYED TO HIM AND ANY COMMENTS
REPORTED.

3. FOR GENEVA: REFTEL B IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU FYI.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN05174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780125-0463
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaablen.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67df60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 8818, 78 BONN 4707, 78 CAIRO 8317
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3261311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN UGANDA: VISIT OF BARON VON BLOMBERG
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, SHUM, EG, UG, GE, (VON BLOMBERG, BARON)
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67df60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014